

# PREPARATION PLAN for the UKIAH RMP

July 9, 2004

Recommended for Approval:

Rich Burns July 12, 2004  
Date

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Ukiah Field Office Manager

Approved:

Mike Pool  
California State Director

July 15, 2004  
Date

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Ukiah Resource Management Plan, which will be the outcome of this planning process, will replace the current land use plans in place for the Ukiah Field Office, originally approved in 1976 and amended in 1984 (collectively referred to as the “current plans” in this document). The current land use plans in place for the Ukiah Field Office are the Cow Mountain, Mendocino, and East Lake (as amended in 1984) Planning Unit Management Framework Plans.

The Northwest Forest RMP was completed in 1994, along with the “Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and BLM Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl” and the “Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.” These provided comprehensive management direction for all land use activities within the range of the northern spotted owl. The western portion of the planning area is within the range of the northern spotted owl.

Since the current plans were developed, numerous changes have occurred within and adjacent to the area which require a re-evaluation of the management of public lands administered by the Ukiah Field Office. The changes include urban growth in the communities within the planning area, particularly in the corridor along U.S. Highway 101; urban growth in the adjacent San Francisco Bay and Sacramento metropolitan areas; increasing recreational use of the BLM administered public lands; development and proposals for wind and geothermal production of energy; increased effects of urban interface with public lands; increased restrictions on land uses by State, County, and Local government agencies; nation to nation coordination with Native American Tribes; completion of rangeland health standards and guidelines for California and northwest Nevada; and changes in Federal and State lists of special status species.

Planning is critical to ensuring a coordinated and consistent approach to managing public lands. The resource management planning process is the key tool used by the BLM, in coordination with interested publics, to manage the resources and uses on public lands managed by the BLM. Resource management plan decisions establish goals and objectives for resource management (i.e., desired future conditions), the measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives, and parameters for uses on BLM lands. Subsequent to the resource management plan, implementation-level decisions are made on site-specific actions that implement the resource management plan (e.g., allotment-specific permitted-use levels, livestock grazing systems, vegetation treatments, and right-of-way grants). Resource management plan decisions ordinarily are made on a broad scale and customarily guide subsequent site-specific implementation decisions.

A number of potential partnership opportunities exist that could help BLM broaden involvement in the planning process and widen acceptance and ownership in the future management of the public lands. Agreements with local counties and communities will continue to be utilized and explored for activities and needs such as planning, transportation, emergency services, law enforcement, infrastructure, and tourism. We

will seek to incorporate management actions in the RMPs that would complement and integrate the plans and goals of adjacent communities.

## **2. PLANNING AREA DESCRIPTION**

### **Overall Planning Area**

The **planning area** follows the boundary of the Ukiah Field Office's management area (see Figure 1). The **decision area** for the Ukiah RMP is the approximately 300,000 acres of public land and 214,000 acres of subsurface mineral estate that the Ukiah Field Office manages within the planning area. The planning area falls within the counties of Marin, Solano, Sonoma, Mendocino (south of the city of Willits), Lake, Napa, Yolo, Colusa, and Glenn. There are approximately 1.5 million people living within the planning area. Most of the population is concentrated in the southern portion where there is the least amount of public lands. The majority of public lands managed by the Ukiah Field Office are located in Lake County, one of the least-populated counties in the planning area. The planning area is also influenced by the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento metropolitan areas.

Management of the scattered tracts of public lands in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties is addressed in the Arcata Field Office RMP. That portion of the Ukiah FO management area is excluded from the Ukiah RMP planning area.

A limited number of islands and coastal parcels located within the Ukiah FO management area are within the California Coastal National Monument. That portion of the Ukiah FO management area is excluded from the Ukiah RMP planning area. The California Coastal National Monument Plan, now in process, will provide for BLM management of those islands and coastal parcels. The Ukiah RMP decisions will be coordinate with those of the California Coastal National Monument Plan.

### **Subunits within the Planning Area**

The planning area contains six distinct subunits. They are the Cache Creek Natural Area, Knoxville Recreation Area, Geysers geothermal field, Cow Mountain Special Recreation Management Area, the Indian Valley area, and the Stornetta Ranch area.

The Cache Creek Natural Area encompasses approximately 70,000 acres of public land. It contains a diverse biologic community, cultural resources, a Wilderness Study Area, and provides primitive recreation opportunities. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) related to this area exist with agencies and associations, including the California Department of Fish & Game, Yolo County, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The Integrated Activity Plan for Cache Creek Natural Area (CCNA) is currently in draft form and will be used in the development of the Ukiah RMP.

The Knoxville Recreation Area is 18,000 acres in size and contains serpentine soils. It contains approximately 60 miles of existing roads and trails that are currently managed primarily for off-highway vehicle use. The Knoxville Recreation Area Management Plan was signed by the Field Manager of the Ukiah BLM office in August of 1994 and implementation began in 1998 after settlement of appeals.

The Geysers geothermal field is 8,100 acres in size. It is the largest producing geothermal field in the world. Located in both Lake and Sonoma Counties, steam produced from 12 federal leases at The Geysers generates an average of 350 megawatts of electricity, enough to meet the needs of about 350,000 households. Royalties amount to over \$10 million per year, 20% of which is returned to the counties where the steam was produced.

Lands within the Cow Mountain Special Recreation Management Area were set aside in 1927 by Congress (P.L. 69-721) to manage for recreation, wildlife, and watershed management. In the mid 1970s, Cow Mountain was divided into two parts: the South Cow Mountain Off Highway Vehicle Use Area and the North Cow Mountain Recreation Management Area. The South Cow Mountain Off Highway Vehicle Use Area is a 27,700 acre area located in Mendocino and Lake Counties. It has been developed for the management of off-highway vehicles. An activity plan was completed in 1982. The North Cow Mountain Recreation Management Area is a 27,000 acre area located in Mendocino and Lake Counties. It is managed for non-OHV recreation. An activity plan was completed in 1991.

In 1987 a recreation area management plan was completed for the Indian Valley area, a block of public lands north of Highway 20 and surrounding Indian Valley Reservoir.

In 2004, BLM acquired approximately 1,138 acres of the Stornetta Brothers Ranch. This acquisition will be incorporated into the RMP.

Bureau of Land Management  
Ukiah Field Office

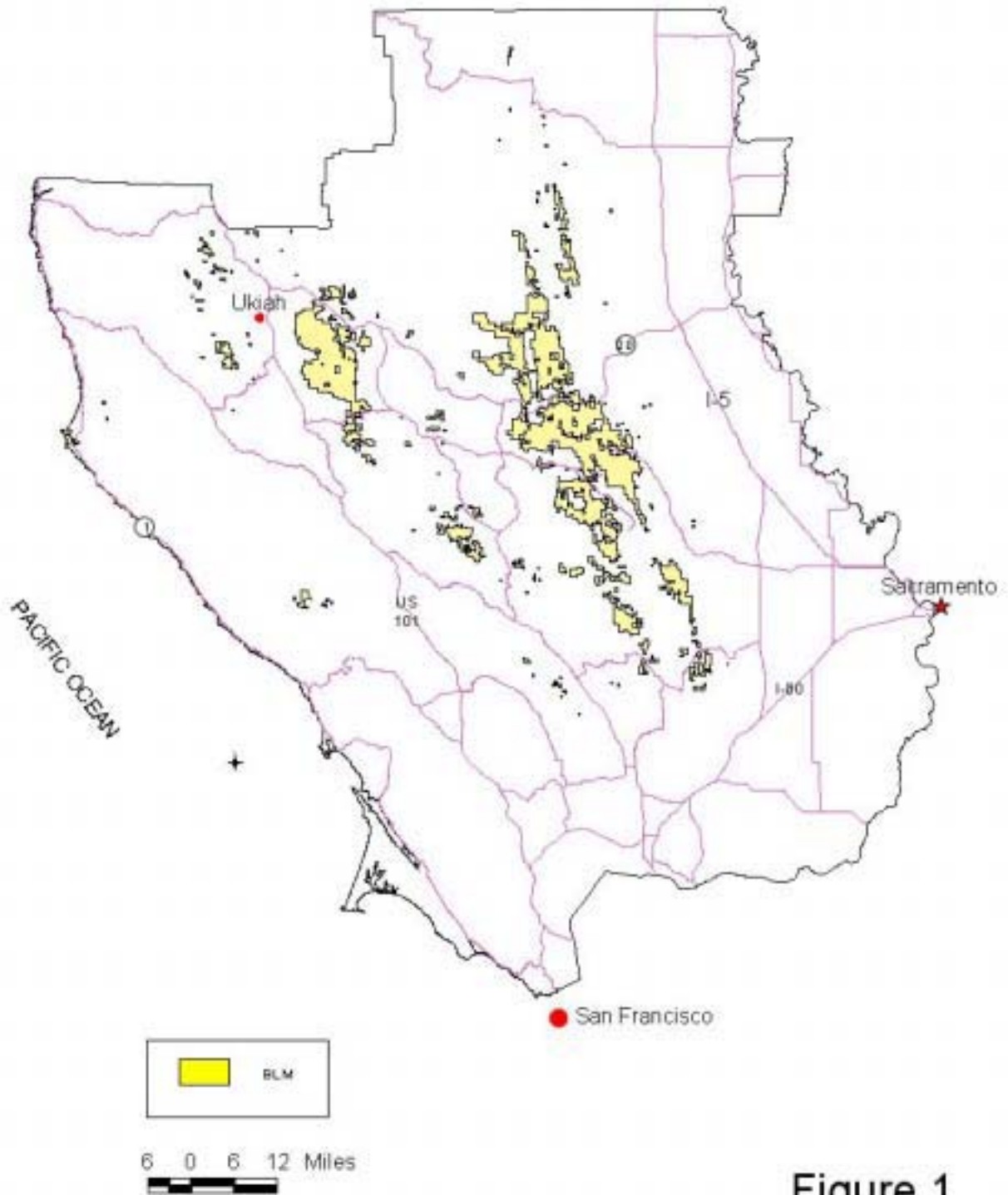


Figure 1

### 3. ANTICIPATED PLANNING ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Issues to be addressed include managing increasing urban pressure, making off-highway vehicle designations, and land tenure decisions, including disposal and joint management options. In addition, in the Cache Creek Natural Area, management of wildlife habitat, motorized and non-motorized recreation, cultural resources, control of invasive plant species, and watershed restoration need to be addressed. In the Knoxville Recreation Area, OHV use, target shooting, camping, and serpentine soil dependant ecologic communities need to be addressed. In the Geysers area, future production levels and infrastructure requirements need to be addressed. In the Cow Mountain Recreation Area, OHV use, camping, and watershed health need to be addressed. In the Indian Valley area, wind energy development, camping, and OHV use need to be addressed. In the Stornetta Ranch area, abalone and seaweed harvest, watershed health, T&E species habitat, cultural resources, and recreational uses need to be addressed.

Preliminary issues were identified by the Ukiah Field Office staff. Public scoping will be conducted to determine final issues to be addressed in this RMP. These preliminary issues are grouped into three major categories then further arranged by topic.

#### **Issue 1: Natural & Cultural Resources –**

##### **How do we best protect and manage the natural and cultural resources on the public lands?**

The public land managed by the Ukiah Field Office is popular for recreation and is known for its biodiversity. It has a long history of human habitation and contains numerous important cultural sites. Some of the resources and programs managed by BLM for which decisions regarding management must be made include potential wilderness, wildlife, vegetation, endangered and special status species, air quality, water quality, cultural and historical, visual or scenic, and special designations.

#### General

- What are the anticipated future use demands for the resources on public lands and how can they be managed?
- Where is there urban interface with the public lands and how will it be managed?
- Are there areas that should be considered for designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?

#### Cultural and Paleontological Resource Protection and Management

- What traditional use sites exist within the and how should they be managed?
- Are there any area-wide or site-specific use restrictions needed for cultural and paleontological resources that might affect the location, timing, or method of development of other resources in the Planning Area?

- What opportunities exist regarding cultural and paleontological resources for scientific, educational, and recreational uses?
- Should more work be conducted to add to our knowledge of cultural and paleontological resources in the Planning Area and, if so, where?

### Fire and Fuels

- What role should fire suppression and fuel management activities have in maintaining and restoring natural resources?
- What resources need protection from wild land fire?
- Are fuels management projects needed to meet vegetation or wildlife management objectives?
- Do any hazardous fuel conditions exist?

### Hazardous Materials

- Are there Abandoned Mine Lands and other sites that pose a potential for hazardous materials? What will be our strategy for ameliorating risks associated with these sites?
- What management strategies should be used to reduce or stop illegal trash dumping on public land?

### Vegetation

- What exotic species and noxious weeds are present and what methods should be used to control them and avoid further introductions?
- What should be done to maintain and restore native vegetation?
- What actions are required to protect and restore habitat for Special Status species?
- What management actions will benefit or conserve special status species within the Planning Area?

### Wildlife and Special Status Species

- How should wildlife habitat be managed so that desired habitat conditions can be achieved?
- What actions or use restrictions are needed to achieve desired population and habitat conditions for priority species?
- How should wildlife corridors and other high value wildlife habitat be managed?
- How should wildlife reintroduction be considered and managed?
- What actions are required to protect and restore habitat for special status species?
- What management actions will benefit or conserve special status species within the Planning Area?
- How will sensitive fisheries be protected from overexploitation by recreational harvest?



## Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers

- What areas have wilderness characteristics and how will they be managed?
- Which, if any, waterways are determined eligible and suitable for designation under The Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968?
- How will interim management be accomplished so as to not impair suitability of such lands for inclusion in the Wilderness system or Wild and Scenic River system?

## Water and Soil Resources

- Are there ADEQ designated Category I Watersheds in the planning area? What watershed restoration actions need to be considered for these watersheds?
- What is the status of ground and surface waters in the planning area? Are there any actions needed to reduce pollutants?
- Do we need to consider acquiring water rights to protect public land resources?
- What management prescriptions must be implemented to stay in compliance?
- What actions are needed to maintain soil stability and reduce erosion?

## **Issue 2: Public Uses –**

### **How should public uses and activities be managed?**

Recreational activities make up a majority of the uses occurring throughout the planning area and include hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, rafting, sightseeing (including historic trail touring), target shooting, and recreational driving by motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and full size four-wheel-drive vehicles such as jeeps and sport utility vehicles (SUVs). Commercial vendors operating under special BLM permits provide some of the recreational activities. However, the majority of uses are individual users and non-commercial groups. In some areas, human use has significantly impacted natural resources. Other uses of the public land include livestock grazing, land-use permits, energy and minerals development, and rights-of-way.

## Recreation Visitor Use and Safety

- What range of recreational opportunities should be provided to meet the existing and anticipated demands?
- Are existing Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) adequate for the demand for targeted activity opportunities?
- How should competing uses be allocated and managed?
- How will we coordinate management of visitor uses with other nearby landowners, including private, state, tribes, and other federal agencies?
- How will motorized and non-motorized vehicles be managed?
- What management strategies should be used to manage commercial and non-commercial permitted activities, particularly in relation to allowable non-permitted recreation uses at present and in the future?

- How can use of firearms be managed to ensure maximum visitor safety and resource protection?
- What are the effects of increased OHV use on animal distribution, habitat quality, and availability of refuge areas?

#### Transportation Planning and Access

- What transportation and access network is needed and how does the existing network need to be changed?
- What areas should be open, limited to designated roads, or closed to vehicles?
- In areas where vehicle use is or would be limited to designated roads, what routes should be designated?
- Are changes to specific existing access routes desirable (improve, limit, close)?
- What level of maintenance should be provided on roads and trails?

#### Grazing Management

- Which lands should be open to livestock grazing?
- Are Land Health Standards on the public lands being met and are any adjustments to the grazing suitability determination required?

#### Utility Corridors and Rights of Way

- Are the currently identified utility corridors meeting the current and future projected needs of industry and local communities?
- Where can corridors be located that provide for the needs of industry and the public while minimizing conflict with other uses and resource protection?
- What areas should be excluded or avoided for new Rights of Way?

#### Realty and Land Tenure

- Where are we responsible for managing split estate (surface ownership different from subsurface mineral ownership)?
- What is our responsibility and authority in managing these lands?
- What lands, if any, should be withdrawn from public land laws, including mineral entry?
- Where are existing and potential communication sites?
- What lands and subsurface mineral estate should be considered for acquisition, disposal, and exchange?
- What criteria should be applied when considering acquisition of lands?
- What lands might be withdrawn for BLM administrative and recreation sites?

#### Minerals, Oil & Gas, and Energy Development

- What is the projected need for mineral development and how can we best manage

for these needs?

- What lands are currently withdrawn from mineral entry and location and what is the locatable mineral potential of these lands?
- What is the marketability of mineral materials in the Planning Area?
- What management strategies or resource allocation is needed to address demand for saleable and locatable minerals?
- Where are the conflicts that will preclude or restrict mineral material sales?
- What is the energy development potential of the public lands?
- How should areas of current geothermal production be managed for present and future production levels?
- Are there additional opportunities to develop renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, geothermal, or biomass?

### **Issue 3: Community Interface -**

#### **How do we integrate public land management with other agency and community plans?**

Coordination with state agencies that have jurisdiction over resources within or related to the public lands is essential for effective management. Existing agreements with these entities will be reexamined and modified as needed. New agreements with agencies and local governments may also be developed to address specific management issues and to implement aspects of the plans.

The BLM will consult with Native American groups to identify the cultural values, religious beliefs, traditional practices, and legal rights of Native American people that could be affected by proposed and on-going land uses on the public lands. Before making decisions or approving actions in the plan that could result in changes in land use, physical changes to lands or resources, changes in access, or alienation of lands, the BLM will determine whether Native American interests would be affected and follow pertinent consultation requirements.

#### Social and Economic

- What management actions can BLM take to help meet the needs of local, regional, and tribal communities?
- How do land use decisions on public lands affect local, regional, and tribal communities and vice-versa?
- What are the implications of social and economic conditions and trends for public land management?
- How might the social and economic context change over the life of the plan and how would public land management adapt to these changes?

#### Coordinated Planning and Management

- What local, state, tribal, and federal plans currently exist and how can public land

- management be coordinated with these plans, consistent with federal law and regulation?
- What types of agreements will be required with local, state, and federal agencies?

#### **4. PRELIMINARY PLANNING CRITERIA**

The following planning criteria will constrain and guide the development of the Plan and determine how the planning team approaches the development of alternatives and ultimately, selection of the Preferred Alternative.

##### **General Planning Criteria**

- The Ukiah Resource Management Plan (RMP) will establish management guidance for the public lands administered by the Ukiah Field Office (UFO). The Ukiah RMP will replace and supercede all other BLM resource management plans for the lands covered by them.
- The plan will be completed in compliance with the Federal Land Management and Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and all other relevant federal law. The plan will also comply with executive orders, and management policies of the BLM (see appendix B).
- Existing planning decisions may remain unchanged where they are adequately addressing current planning issues.
- The planning team will work collaboratively with the State of California, tribal governments, municipal governments, other federal agencies, the Resource Advisory Council, and other interested groups, agencies, and individuals in developing the Ukiah RMP. Decisions in the plan will strive to be compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, tribal, and federal agencies.
- Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy and tribal concerns will be given due consideration. The planning process will include the consideration of any impacts on Indian trust assets.
- Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service will take place throughout the planning process to identify conservation actions and measures for inclusion in the plan.
- Coordination with the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be conducted throughout the planning process.

- The plan will set forth a framework for managing recreational and commercial activities in order to maintain existing natural landscapes and to provide for the enjoyment and safety of the visiting public.
- The lifestyles of area residents will be considered in the plans.
- Any lands or interests therein located within the planning area boundary, which are acquired by BLM, will be managed consistently with these plans, subject to any constraints associated with the acquisition.
- The plan will address transportation and access for all public lands. All areas will be identified as open, closed, or limited to off-road vehicle traffic. Routes of travel will be designated.
- The plan will recognize valid existing rights.
- Federal Geographic Data Committee standards and other applicable BLM standards will be followed.
- California Department of Fish and Game jurisdiction regarding wildlife, county jurisdiction regarding search and rescue, and California Department of Forestry regarding fire suppression will be recognized.
- Community values in the planning area will be recognized and incorporated where appropriate.
- Plan decisions will use best available science and data, and will be adaptive where appropriate.

## **5. DATA and GIS NEEDS**

The GIS database for the Ukiah Field Office is fairly complete for base data, but lacks some resource themes necessary for this planning effort. Table 2 summarizes the data collection needs and expected cost and time needed to accomplish new data collection and GIS compilation.

All GIS data currently in the UFO database meets BLM local, BLM California, or other source standards. All new data collected will have information about the data collected (metadata) stored in a database. All metadata will meet the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards. All new data collected will meet either BLM national data standards or the standard of the appropriate data collection agency/entity. No data currently in the UFO GIS database complies with FGDC metadata standards. Efforts are currently underway to develop FGDC compliant metadata.

Data needs identified are:

1. Conversion of archaeologic data from paper maps into GIS coverages. This will be accomplished as part of the RMP/EIS contract.
2. Socio-economic data and projections are available through the Sonoran Institute. Synthesis of that data will be accomplished as part of the RMP/EIS contract.
3. Completion of Recreation Opportunity Spectrum for the Planning Area. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff.
4. Completion of Visual Resources Analysis, resulting in VRM Class management classes. This will be accomplished as part of the RMP/EIS contract.
5. Identification of outdoor recreation supply and demand for the Planning Area. This will be accomplished as part of the RMP/EIS contract.
6. Data exists for locations of Abandoned Mine Lands and other sites that pose a potential for hazardous materials, but it must be assembled and a GIS coverage created. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff.
7. Data exists for locations and frequency of illegal trash dumping on public lands, but must be assembled and a GIS coverage created. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff.
8. Vegetative data is incomplete or outdated. GIS coverages are needed and can be produced using existing data from Bureau and non-Bureau sources. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff or as part of the RMP/EIS contract.
9. Noxious plant data is good in some parts of the Planning Area, but lacking in others. Data acquisition is needed and GIS coverages need to be created. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff or as part of the RMP/EIS contract.
10. Wildlife data by species, habitat boundaries and condition, and population densities and trends is minimal or nonexistent. There is insufficient time and funds to collect comprehensive original data, so existing Bureau and non-Bureau data will largely be used. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff or as part of the RMP/EIS contract.
11. Special Status Species data by species, habitat boundaries and condition, and population densities and trends is minimal or nonexistent. There is insufficient time and funds to collect comprehensive original data, so existing Bureau and non-Bureau data will largely be used. Funding is available in FY04 and FY05 for limited inventory of special status species habitat and occurrence in the Planning Area. Contracting for inventory will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff.
12. Fisheries data by species, habitat boundaries and condition, and population densities and trends is minimal or nonexistent. There is insufficient time and funds to collect comprehensive original data, so existing Bureau and non-Bureau data will largely be used. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff or through contract.
13. Wilderness Study Area boundaries and inventory information is available, but needs to be converted to a GIS coverage. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff.
14. Waterways eligible for designation under The Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968 need to be determined and the data used to create a GIS coverage. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff.
15. Soil, air, and water data is generally available through other agencies. Development of GIS coverages may be necessary for them to be useful for this

- planning effort.
16. Recreation facilities data is available and needs to be converted to Planning Area-wide GIS coverages. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff.
  17. Route inventory is nearly complete, but there is a data gap in the Indian Valley area. Existing data will need to be used there as it is unlikely that new data can be gathered in time for the preparation of this plan. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff.
  18. Transportation Plan is available, but a GIS coverage needs to be created. This will be accomplished by Ukiah FO staff.

## 6. PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS

### Management Team:

Mike Pool, State Director, California State Office, Sacramento:

Approves Draft RMP/EIS before public comment; signs PRMP/FEIS and Record of Decision; provides State Office staff coordination and review; assists in protests; provides some scarce skill specialists for the interdisciplinary team as needed (socio-economics, leasable minerals, locatable minerals, writer/editor).

James Wesley Abbott, Associate State Director, California State Office, Sacramento:

Acts on behalf of the State Director in the planning process when State Director is unavailable.

Rich Burns, Field Manager, Ukiah Field Office, Ukiah:

Sets Project Leader and interdisciplinary team priorities, provides overall direction and management guidance to the interdisciplinary team; ensures final product is responsive to the issues and can be implemented; coordinates with upper level management in appropriate State of California agencies, affected Native Corporations, National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; helps develop issues and questions; keeps State Director up-to-date on progress and recommends solutions to keeping progress on track; approves the pre-plan analysis; and recommends draft and final products to State Director.

Gary Sharpe, Supervisory Resource Management Specialist, UFO:

**Interim Team Leader.** Manages daily operations of UFO RMP planning effort. Provides overall supervision of interdisciplinary team; sets priorities for completing plan, and general oversight of UFO RMP plan preparation details. Prepares and executes UFO RMP planning budget. Serves as point person in the public participation process. With the BLM Field Manager, ensure that management of lands and resources along agency administrative boundaries is arrived at in a collaborative manner to avoid different approaches and confusing direction in these areas. Responsible for day-to-day tasks that result in progress

toward completion of the plan. Ensures public involvement, coordination with contractors, and does what is necessary to complete the plan in a timely manner.

### **Interdisciplinary Team:**

To be assigned: EIS/Planning Team Leader:

Manages daily operations of UFO RMP planning effort. Provides overall supervision of interdisciplinary team; sets priorities for completing plan, and general oversight of UFO RMP plan preparation details. Prepares and executes UFO RMP planning budget. Serves as point person in the public participation process. With the BLM Field Manager, ensure that management of lands and resources along agency administrative boundaries is arrived at in a collaborative manner to avoid different approaches and confusing direction in these areas. Acts as COR. Responsible for day-to-day tasks that result in progress toward completion of the plan. Ensures public involvement, coordination with contractors, and does what is necessary to complete the plan in a timely manner. The position will either be filled as a term position in the Ukiah FO or a shared position working from California SO.

Dave Fatch, Planning & Environmental Coordinator, UFO: Interim COR, Special Designations (ACEC)

Rich Estabrook, Petroleum Engineer, CSO: Leaseable Minerals

James Dawson, Fire Management Officer, UFO: Fire and Fuels Management

Jonna Hildenbrand, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner, UFO: Outdoor Recreation, Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Visual Resource Management

Brad Colin, Outdoor Recreation Planner, UFO: OHV

Pardee Bardwell, Biologist, UFO: Botany, T&E Flora, Livestock Grazing, Wild Horse & Burro, Section 7 Consultation

Julie Burcell, Archaeologist, UFO: Cultural Resources, Paleontologic Resources, Nation to Nation Coordination

Alice Vigil, Realty Specialist, UFO: Land Tenure

William Dabbs, Realty Specialist, UFO: Lands and Realty, ATROW.

Frank Arriaza, Riparian Specialist, UFO: Soil, Air, Water, Watershed, Riparian

Gregg Mangan, Manager, Cache Creek Natural Area, UFO: Biology, T&E Fauna, Section 7 Consultation

To be assigned: Locatable and Saleable Minerals

To be assigned: Fisheries, T&E Fish

### **Support Team:**

Jack Mills, Planning Coordinator, CSO:

Diane Knox, GIS Coordinator, UFO: GIS Support



Larry Ames, Interpretive Specialist, UFO: Web Support  
Caroline Crowley, Administrative Technician: General Support,  
Administrative Record  
Linda Stewart, Procurement Specialist, NORCAL: Contract Preparation  
Jeff Fontana, Public Affairs Specialist, NORCAL: Public Affairs

## **Scarce Skills**

Several of the skills needed to complete the RMP are either not available from existing UFO staff or are in short supply. Support will be needed from the California State Office to fill some of these skills, including Socio-Economics analysis and consideration of locatable minerals. There is no Writer-editor or Public Affairs Specialist on staff at UFO. There is no fisheries biologist on the UFO staff and, with the acquisition of a segment of the Garcia River and a part of the California coastline, issues with anadromous fisheries and abalone harvest may need to be addressed in this RMP.

The expertise in the following fields may need to be provided by the California State Office or through contract.

Locatable and Saleable Minerals  
Marine Biology/Ecology  
Fisheries Biology, including T&E species  
Socio-Economics  
Writer-Editor

## **7. FORMAT and PROCESS for the RMP**

The format and process for the RMP and for the EIS will be consistent with the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1). Preparation Plan, data development, writing of the Analysis of the Management Situation and formulation of alternatives will be accomplished by BLM staff, primarily from the Ukiah FO. Scoping, socio-economic portions of the RMP, public participation, and EIS development will be accomplished through contract.

Coordination with FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be initiated upon approval of this Preparation Plan. The contact with these agencies will allow identification of potential impacts to special status species or critical habitat. Upon completion of the draft alternatives, they will be submitted to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in their required formats to initiate consultations. Consultations will be conducted consistent with the National Memorandum of Agreement (August 30, 2000). The Ukiah FO works with FWS

Sacramento Field Office regarding all Section 7 consultations and the Arcata NMFS office for all consultations on anadromous fish and marine species.

### **Forming Alternatives**

A range of alternatives, including a no-action alternative, will be developed to respond to issues. Each alternative will provide different solutions to the issues and concerns. The objective in alternative formulation will be to develop realistic, practical solutions. Some alternatives may be considered but eliminated from detailed study within the RMP/EIS.

### **Form of Input from ID Team and Reviewers**

Team members and internal reviewers will use Microsoft Word software. Input will also be provided through e-mail, verbally, on flip charts, and through notes taken at meetings. The UFO will request written submission in a specific format but reviewers from outside BLM may use any media they prefer.

### **Accountability**

Though significant portions of the RMP and EIS are being developed primarily by contract, BLM specialists must complete assigned tasks on time to assure plan/EIS deadlines are met. A smooth progression to each step requires this. Management and supervisors will be made aware of ongoing planning processes. All efforts will be made by the Planning Team Leader to keep team members, reviewers, and the contractor aware of the schedule and elapsed time. Being accountable for a job carries a responsibility for each individual involved to meet deadlines and submit the best product possible. Any situations that occur in which a delay seems imminent, will be resolved immediately by collaboration between the Team Leader, the contractor, and any individuals involved. The objective will be to evaluate the circumstances, insure all involved are aware of the impacts, and take actions to get the schedule and products on track again. In cases of workload or priority conflicts, the appropriate manager will resolve the conflict.

Individuals working on the plan must complete assigned tasks on time to assure plan/EIS deadlines are met. The planning team leader will keep management aware of the planning process, and will coordinate with team members, reviewers, and contractor to assure a smooth progression of the project. Any situations that arise in which a delay could occur will be brought to the attention of the team leader so that management can be advised and a strategy developed. The objective will be to evaluate the circumstances, insure all involved are aware of the impacts, and take actions to get the schedule and products on track again. In cases of workload or priority conflicts, the appropriate manager will resolve the conflict. Data Stewards are responsible for ensuring that data layers for their resource meet required data standards

## **8. RMP PREPARATION SCHEDULE**

The planning schedule in the following table shows the general schedule for completing various components of the Resource management plan. A detailed schedule and associated Gant chart will be produced to help track scheduled tasks and costs.

The schedule is highly dependent on the timely receipt of adequate FY2005 funds. FY2005 funding includes significant data collection costs. If these costs are not fully covered in FY2005 by the benefiting subactivity and/or planning, the planning schedule may be extended. Although we have made every effort to minimize data collection needs to those that are absolutely necessary, the data needs specified in the preparation plan must be completed to allow informed discussion with the public and development of alternatives.

The schedule has several distinct phases:

FY04: Scoping and analysis of the management situation.

FY05: Development of alternatives, write draft plan, perform environmental analysis on the alternatives and write draft EIS; issue draft plan/draft EIS and receive comments on the draft

FY06: Analysis of comments of draft; update plan and environmental analysis; issuing proposed plan/final EIS; begin work on any protests

FY06: Resolve protests; issue final plan and ROD.

Task	Begin Date	End Date
Identify data needs, develop Preparation Plan	December, 2003	July, 2004
<b>Issue Notice of Intent</b>	May, 2004	June, 2004
Prepare and issue Data Collection Contracts	May, 2004	December, 2004
Collect of Field Data	June, 2004	December, 2004
Initiate Community Involvement (most intensive during scoping & alternative development), identify cooperating agencies, develop consultation agreement with FWS	July, 2004	February, 2006
Issue Planning RFP, Contract Proposals	June, 2004	July, 2004
Award Planning Contract	August, 2004	August, 2004
<b>Scoping Meetings</b>	July, 2004	August, 2004
Analysis of the Management Situation	May, 2004	September, 2004
Develop Alternatives with partners	September, 2004	December, 2004
Write Draft Plan		
Purpose and Need, Affected Environment, Alternatives	November, 2004	December, 2004
Impact Analysis	December, 2004	February, 2005
Internal Review	April, 2005	April, 2005
<b>Publish Draft RMP/Draft EIS</b>	May, 2005	May 2005
Public Meetings on Draft, and Review Period	June, 2005	August, 2005
Comment Analysis	August, 2005	October, 2005
Preparation of Proposed RMP/Final EIS	November, 2005	February, 2006
Internal Review; FWS consultation	February, 2006	March, 2006
<b>Publish Proposed RMP/Final EIS</b>	March, 2006	April, 2006
Protest Period	May, 2006	June, 2006
<b>Issue Record of Decision</b>		September, 2006

## **9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

The goal of the public participation process is to develop the plan through collaborative partnerships with the public, other government agencies, and interested organizations that result in pro-active management prescriptions, dynamic problem solving strategies, and an overall reduction in conflicts that impede management actions and potentially lead to litigation. Every effort will be made to assure active public involvement throughout the process. Forms of communication will include use of internet technology. A web site will be developed that provides information regarding the planning process and related information, and will solicit comments from users and interested public. The public participation process will be accomplished using contracted services for notification, facilitation, and compilation of input.

### **Community Based-Partnerships**

A Community-based Partnership process will contribute to the public participation. Some objectives to accomplish the aforementioned goal are to:

- Develop collaborative partnerships with communities, other government agencies, and interested organizations.
- Ensure collaboration and participation is as inclusive as possible by thoroughly learning who the interested parties are and providing as many opportunities as possible to participate.

Collaboration will occur throughout the planning process. We expect community collaboration to be most intensive during the scoping and alternative development phases, when issues are identified and management alternatives are developed. Community collaboration may take the form of BLM organized working groups to address particular issues, community or interest group organized groups, and/or groups organized under the auspices of the RAC. The various forms are likely to vary depending on the communities and issues involved. In all cases, however, BLM will work to ensure that all interested parties are provided with the opportunity to be involved in the collaborative planning process. Formal consultation will also proceed, in parallel, with tribal governments and with the SHPO and FWS, in accordance with legal requirements. The form of this consultation will be determined by working closely with the tribes, SHPO and FWS to develop a process that will provide opportunities for active involvement and coordination. In addition, state, county, tribal, and local governments will be invited to participate in the planning effort as cooperating agencies. Much of the BLM staff time will be dedicated to working with the public, other government agencies, and interested organizations during these phases. The collaborative relationships developed during these early stages will continue throughout the planning process and into the implementation phase.

## **Identify Issues, Planning Criteria, and Management Concerns**

Information regarding the preparation and content of the plan, as well as announcements of upcoming scoping meetings, will be provided to the public through the Federal Register Notice of Intent, media outreach (radio, newspaper, text TV), and/or website information. e-mail messages and letters will be sent to people on the mailing list. An initial mailing list will be developed from the California State Office database.

Scoping meetings will be used to gather public input on issues, management concerns, and planning criteria. Proposed locations for these meetings are Ukiah, Lakeport, and Santa Rosa. Meetings will also be held in Fort Bragg if the acquisition of the Stornetta Ranch occurs. Public meetings will consist of a presentation to explain the land use planning process, followed by an opportunity for the public to express issues and concerns. Written comments will be gathered throughout the scoping period. A scoping report will be made available to the public after the scoping period ends. Proposed planning criteria will be made available for public comment prior to being approved by the Field Office Manager. Contact with affected and neighboring communities will be initiated and on-going throughout the planning effort. This aspect of the public participation process will be accomplished using contracted services for notification, facilitation, and compilation of input.

## **Formulating Alternatives**

Facilitated public meetings may be held to discuss alternatives and ensure that issues are addressed. If public participation is poor at any of the public meetings during the scoping phase, a formal meeting may not be held at that location during this phase. Instead, personal contacts could be made to those who participated. Letters and information on the website will provide background information on issues and alternatives. This aspect of the public participation process will be accomplished using contracted services for notification, facilitation, and compilation of input.

Contact with affected and neighboring communities will continue.

## **Issue the Draft RMP and EIS**

Public Notice of the availability of the draft plans/EIS will include: Federal Register Notices regarding the availability of the draft plans/EIS and a 90-day period for public comments to be submitted. Notices will be published in local/regional papers advertising the availability of the draft plans/EIS, the 90-day comment period, and the schedule of the public meetings to be held during the comment period. This information will also be posted to the web site regarding availability of the draft plan/EA and solicitation for public comment.

Public meetings held locally during the 90-day public comment period to gather verbal or

written input on the draft plans/EIS will be conducted. On-going contact with affected and neighboring communities will continue. This aspect of the public participation process will be accomplished using contracted services for notification, facilitation, and compilation of input.

### **Publish the Proposed Final RMP and EIS**

Notice will be provided to the mailing list of the availability of the proposed plans and final EIS. The availability of the plans will be advertised in regional newspapers and other media, as well as posted to the web site. Public outreach materials will include a notice of the 30-day protest period. On-going contact with affected and neighboring communities will continue. Informal public input, provided in written, verbal, and e-mail form, will be welcomed anytime in the process, and is to be documented and routed to the Ukiah Field Office Manager, then to the Team Leader.

The Governor's consistency review (60 days). If acquisition of Stornetta Ranch occurs, a Coastal Zone Management Review (90 days) will be solicited.

### **Respond to Protests**

A Federal Register Notice will be published (if needed), requesting comments on significant changes made as result of a protest. This will be advertised and the information made available on the UFO website. Written responses will be sent to the public as needed.

On going contact with affected and neighboring communities will continue.

### **Publish Approved RMP**

Notify publics via news articles, e-mail, website, and transmittal letters of availability of approved RMP. Plan availability will also be announced through on-going contact with affected and neighboring communities.

### **Stakeholders List**

Specific groups of stakeholders that have been identified will be listed in the Public Participation Plan.. Additional stakeholders will be identified throughout the process. A mailing list identifying key people in these organizations, agencies, and interest groups will be compiled with the assistance of the RMP contractor who will be responsible for handling all mailings, notifications of public meetings, input deadlines, etc., associated with the public participation process.

## **Internet Technology**

An interactive web site will be developed to provide information and solicit comments from all users and interested publics. This site will be placed on the California BLM and the UFO external web pages. It will follow the website format used for other ongoing planning efforts in California. Elements of e-Planning may be incorporated. The site will be updated periodically to ensure currency with the planning effort. The planning schedule will be posted on this site. Planning documents such as the planning criteria, NOI, Scoping report, and draft RMP/EIS, will be placed on the web site as they are completed. The site will provide for e-mail response from the public.

## **10. BUDGET**

Following are four tables reflecting the expected costs associated with successfully developing the Resource Management Plan and an Environmental Impact Statement. The labor table includes estimates for in-house data collection, administration of data collection contracts, scoping, alternative development, and review of planning/environmental documents from the contractor. The labor costs for FY2004 are based on actual predicted labor costs. The labor costs for subsequent years assume a 5% increase each year (e.g., cost of living increases are accounted for but promotions are not). The labor table also attempts to account for time spent in collaborative interaction with the public, interest groups, and partner agencies. Because of the large population and large number of interest groups in and influencing the planning area, the time and costs associated with collaborative outreach are substantial. Time and cost tracking will be initiated as a means to refine time and cost commitments as the planning process proceeds.

The operations table is an estimate of operations budget needed to successfully complete the plans and EIS. This table includes vehicle, travel, and miscellaneous costs associated with in-house data collection efforts, as well as estimates of data collection contracts, and the plan/EIS contractor. The budget tables also identify state overhead costs (estimated at 18%).



**Table 1: Distribution of Labor Dollars by Position**

Position	AWC	2004 WMs	2004 Costs	2005 WMs	2005 Costs	2006 WMs	2006 Costs	Total Costs
Field Manager	\$8,300	4.2	35,000	2	16,600	2	16,600	68,200
Assoc Field Mgr	\$7,600	4.9	37,100	2	15,200	2	15,200	67,500
Planning & Env. Coord.	\$7,200	4.4	31,400	1	7,200	1	7,200	45,800
Planning Lead	\$6,700	0	0	12	80,400	12	80,400	160,800
Archaeologist	\$5,200	2	10,400	1	5,200	.5	2,600	18,200
Wildlife Biologist	\$6,100	2.6	15,700	1.5	9,150	1	6,100	30,950
Range Specialist	\$6,400	1.5	9,550	1.5	9,600	.5	3,200	22,350
Outdoor Rec Planner	\$5,500	3.5	19,000	2	11,000	1	5,500	35,500
Outdoor Rec Planner: OHV	\$3,800	2	7,600	.5	1,900	.5	1,900	11,400
Webmaster	\$4,600	1	4,600	.5	2,300	0	0	6,900
Realty Specialist	\$6,400	1.5	9,600	2	12,800	.5	3,200	25,600
Geologist – Fluid Min.	\$7,500	.5	3,750	.5	3,750	.5	3,750	11,250
Hydrologist	\$5,300	1	5,300	1	5,300	.5	2,350	12,950
FMO	\$6,200	1	6,200	1	6,200	.5	3,600	16,000
LEO	\$7,200	1	7,200	0	0	0	0	7,200
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Affairs Specialist	\$7,200	1	7,200	1	6,400	1	6,400	20,000
GIS Specialist	\$6,400	2.5	16,300	1	6,400	1	6,400	29,100
Administrative Staff Assistance	\$3,800	1.6	6,100	2	7,600	2	7,600	21,300
Procurement Specialist	\$6,700	1	6,700	.5	3,350	.5	3,350	13,400
Other Staff Support	\$3,800	2.2	8,300	1	3,800	1	3,800	15,900
<b>Total</b>		25	247,000	34	214,150	28	179,150	640,300

**Table 2: Distribution of operations dollars according to task**

Task	2004 Costs	2005 Costs	2006 Costs	Total
Directly attributable to planning				
Vehicles	2,000	10,000	10,000	22,000
Meeting facilities	2,000	3,000	3,000	8,000
Other administrative costs	3,000	10,000	10,000	23,000
Travel	4,300	10,000	10,000	24,300
Training	0	0	0	0
Plan/EIS Contract	50,000	443,000	438,000	931,000
Community Partnership	0	0	0	0
<b>Planning Subtotal</b>	61,300	476,000	471,000	1,008,300
<b>Data-related costs:</b>				
T&E Surveys	25,000	30,000	0	55,000
Wildlife Surveys	0	30,000	0	30,000
ROS	26,700	0	0	26,700
	0	0	0	0
<b>Data Subtotal</b>	51,700	60,000	0	111,700
<b>Total</b>	113,000	536,000	471,000	1,120,000

**Table 3: Total Labor and Operations costs**

	2004 Costs	2005 Costs	2006 Costs	Total
Subtotal (labor & operations)	360,000	750,150	650,150	1,760,300
Overhead (CA 0777)	64,800	135,027	117,027	316,854
Total	424,800	885,177	767,177	2,077,154

## APPENDIX A: Laws and Regulations Relating to Resource Management Plans

Law/Regulation	Applies to:
American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) 42 USC 1996	Native American religious places and access
Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) 16 USC 470	Archaeological resources
Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970, as amended 1990 42 USC 7401 et seq.	Air quality
Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended 33 USC 1252 et seq.	Surface water quality
Endangered Species Act (ESA) 16 USC 1531 et seq., as amended	Threatened and endangered species
Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act of 1988 (FLEFA), 43 USC 1716, 1740	Federal land exchanges
Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), 43 USC 1701	Federal lands, special management areas
Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended	Noxious weeds
Federal Pollution Control Act, as amended 1972	Watersheds
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965	Outdoor recreation
Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970	Mining
Mining Law of 1872, as amended	Mining claims
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 USC 4321 et seq., as amended	Federal undertakings
National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)	Archaeological and historic properties
National Materials and Minerals Policy Research Development Act of 1980	Mineral resources
Public Rangelands Improvements Act of 1978	Rangeland and wildlife management
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1986, as amended (RCRA)	Hazardous or solid waste
Sikes Act, 16 USC 1170	Fish and wildlife management
Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935	Watersheds
Taylor Grazing Act of 1934	Livestock grazing
Water Quality Act of 1987	Riparian areas, wetlands
Watershed Protection and Flood Control Act of 1954	Watersheds
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) 16 USC 1271 et seq.	Wild and scenic rivers
Wilderness Act of 1964	Wilderness
Secretary of the Interior Order 3175 (2 DM 512)	Indian trust assets
Executive Order 11593	Preservation of the cultural environment
Executive Order 11988	Flood plain management
Executive Order 11990	Wetlands, riparian zones
Executive Order 12898	Environmental justice
Executive Order 13007	Sacred sites
Executive Order 13112	Invasive species
Executive Order 13212	Energy policy